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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

International Patent Application No. PCT/EP99/03385

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Applicant: Harald VATER et al.

For: ACCESS-CONTROLLED DATA STORAGE MEDIUM

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This paper accompanies documents submitted to establish the U.S. national stage of the above-identified international patent application.

The international patent application was amended under PCT Article 34 and the claims as-amended are annexed to the International Preliminary Examination Report (IPER).

Before calculation of the filing fee and before examination, kindly amend the claims as annexed to the IPER as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 3, line 1; change "either of the above claims" to --claim 1--; Claim 4, line 1; change "any of the above claims" to --claim 1--;

Claim 5, line 1; change "any of the above claims" to --claim 1--;

Claim 7, line 1; change "either of claims 5 and 6" to --claim 5--;

Claim 10, line 1; change "any of claims 5 to 7" to --claim 5--;

Claim 11, line 1; change "any of claims 5 to 10" to --claim 5--;

Claim 12, line 1; change "any of claims 5 to 11" to --claim 5--;

Claim 13, line 1; change "any of the above claims" to --claim 1--;

Claim 15, line 1; delete "or 14";

Claim 16, line 1; delete "or 14";

Claim 17, line 1; change "either of claims 13 and 14" to --claims 13--;

Claim 18, line 1; change "any of claims 13 to 17" to --claim 13--;

Claim 19, line 1; change "any of claims 13 to 18" to --claim 13--;